

**ABSTRACT**

Please replace the existing Abstract with the following new Abstract:

--A liquid crystal display device having a pair of substrates; a liquid crystal layer disposed between the substrates; and a phase compensator arranged on an outer side of the substrates; wherein, when no voltage is applied, the liquid crystal layer, which has been subjected to a parallel alignment process, is in splay alignment, in which pretilt angles of the liquid crystal at an upper and at a lower boundary of the liquid crystal layer have opposite signs; wherein, before liquid crystal display driving, an initialization process is performed, in which the alignment of the liquid crystal layer is transitioned from splay alignment to bend alignment by application of a voltage; and wherein the liquid crystal display driving is performed in the bend alignment attained by this initialization; including at least one region outside the display pixels where the liquid crystal layer thickness is smaller than inside the display pixels, and that an electric field caused by the application of said voltage, applied to the liquid crystal layer, is larger in this region than in the pixels.--